16. 369 54

A true

NARRATIVE

Of the Proceedings at the

GUILDHALL LONDON. LIBRARY

Sessions-house

IN THE

OLD-BAYLY,

At a Sessions there held

On *Wednesday* the 17*th* of *January* 167$\frac{6}{7}$.

Giving a full Account of the true Tryal and Sentence of LODOWICK MUGGLETON

For Blasphemous Words and Books.

As also the Tryals and Condemnation of a VVoman for Killing her Bastard-Child; and of a Man for personating another person in giving Bayl before a Judge.

With an Account how many are Condemned, Burn'd in the Hand, to be Whipt, and Transported.

With Allowance. *Roger L'Estrange.*

LONDON: Printed for D. M. 167$\frac{6}{7}$.

GUILDHALL LIBRARY LONDON

302 60

The Proceedings at the Seſsions in the *Old bayly*, on *Wedneſday* the 17th of this Inſtant *January* 167⅚.

NOt to trouble the Reader with a tedious Relation of things trivial or impertinent, the moſt conſiderable or remarkable Tranſactions of this Seſſions were as follows.

Firſt, the tryal of that grand and notorious Impoſtor *Lodowick Muggleton*, of whom to give the world a brief Account, we muſt acquaint you, that he was originally a Journyman-Taylor, and (ſome ſay) afterwards kept a Botchers ſtall; but having a ſtrange enthuſiaſtick head, began about the year 1651, to enter into Confederacy with one *Reeves* (another Brother of the Sheers) who reſolve to cut out a new Scheme or Faſhion of Religion; and to that purpoſe declare

themſelves, The two laſt VVitneſſes of God that ever ſhould be upon the Earth; and that they had abſolute and irrevocable power to ſave and damn whom they pleas'd; to which end one call'd himſelf the *Bleſſing*, the other the *Curſing* Prophet. And the ſaid *Reeves* dying ſome years ſince, *Muggleton* pretends his Spirit was left with him, and the whole power of *Witneſſing*, *Bleſſing*, and *Curſing*, devolved into his hands, which he as impiouſly practiſed upon the leaſt affront or oppoſition; pronouncing perſons damn'd by their particular Names, blaſphemouſly adding, *That God, Angels, or Men could not afterwards ſave them.* And as all Hereticks covet to be Authors and Ring-leaders to a Sect, ſo by divers printed Books and Corner conferences, he eaſily ſeduced divers weak and inſtable people (eſpecially of the Female-Sex) to become his Proſelytes, who from him call themſelves *Muggletonians*: So impoſſible it is for the wildeſt and moſt ſenſeleſs, as well as moſt impious Notions, when broached with impudence among the Rabble, not to meet with ſome heads ſo irregular as to embrace them for ſerious Truths, or divine Revelations.

This

302 61

This *Muggleton's* houſe being ſearched about *Auguſt* laſt, a great quantity of his books were ſeized, ſome of which, it was now proved, he owned the writing of, and that he had caus'd them to be printed; for which he was now indicted, many wicked Paſſages out of them being recited in the Indictment, but ſo horrid and blaſphemous, that we think fit to ſpare the Chriſtian modeſty of each pious ear, by not repeating the ſame here, where there is no neceſſity for it. The Priſoner pleaded not guilty, but fruſtrated the general expectation, by ſaying nothing further either to excuſe or juſtifie himſelf, but had a Counſel appear'd for him, who ingenuouſly declar'd himſelf aſham'd to ſpeak a word in favour of ſuch a Cauſe; onely deſired the Court to take notice, that the Books were dated before the laſt Act of Grace; but it being uſual to Antedate or Poſt-date Titles of books, as beſt ſuits with the Publiſher's intereſt, and that he had ſince that Act owned and publiſhed the ſame, that Plea was overrul'd; and the ſaid *Muggleton* being found guilty by the Jury, was afterwards ſentenced by the Court to ſtand three days in the Pil-

lory

lory at three the moſt eminent places of the City, with Papers ſhewing his Crime; and his Books ſo ſeized, divided into three parts, to be burnt over his head upon the Pillory: And beſides, to be fined Five hundred pound, and to continue in Goal till the ſame be paid, and afterwards for his life, unleſs he procured good Bail, ſuch as the Court ſhould accept of, and not of his own Gang, Faction, or Sect, for his being of the good Behaviour.

The next was a woman of about Forty years of age, and one that had ſix Children by a Husband ſince dead, but was, it ſeems, ſtill of too Youthful a temper; for being lately deliver'd, by her ſelf, of a Baſtard-child on a *Wedneſday*-morning, ſhe moſt barbarouſly murthered it by cruſhing the head, and wounding it both in the ſcull and eyes (as is ſuppoſed) with a pair of Sizzars, and then fairly puts it into a Platter and ſets it upon a ſhelf, where it continued till *Saturday*-morning, when a woman lodging above her in the ſame houſe, coming down to viſit her, and examining her more ſtrictly, by reaſon

of

of ſome ſymptoms the obſerved, ſhe now Priſoner confeſs'd ſhe had miſcarried, and looking for the *Embryo* they found a perfect Child murthered, as you have heard. She pretended her ſelf diſtracted when the fact was done; but it appearing that ſhe had ſenſe enough to endeavour to conceal it, ſhe was Convicted and Condemned.

A man was likewiſe Condemned to die for a kind of unuſual Crime, but ſuch as the Law, by reaſon of its bad example and miſchievous tendency, has thought fit to reſtrain with capital Puniſhment; which was, that there being a Suit at Law depending between two perſons, the Priſoner comes and perſonating another man, is Bayl for one of the parties before a Judge; upon which afterwards the man whoſe name he had aſſumed knowing nothing of the buſineſs, was taken up, to his great damage, *&c.* He begg'd heartily for Tranſportation, but it could not be granted. Four

Four Bayliffs and Followers were arraigned by one they went to arreſt, who pretended to have loſt ſome odde Trifles; but they were not found guilty.

Two perſons were Condemned to die, two Burn'd in the hand, and two ſentenced to be Whip'd: And ſo the Seſsions ended with the day.

FINIS.

LIBRARY LONDON